

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

- In the **abstract** (last line), the phrase "light source" has been deleted.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-12 and 14-19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding **claims 1-5, 7-10, and 15-19**, independent claims 1 and 15 teach, *inter alia*, a camera module comprising at least one light source ***wherein said light source is configured to illuminate the image cells without directly illuminating a scene to be recorded whenever a predefined basic brightness exceeds a first threshold***, which is neither taught or an obvious variation of the prior art.

Claim 6 teaches, *inter alia*, a camera module comprising at least one light source ***wherein said light source is configured to illuminate the image cells without directly illuminating a scene to be recorded wherein the light source is designed in the shape of a ring***, which is neither taught or an obvious variation of the prior art.

Regarding **claims 11-12**, independent claim 11 teaches, *inter alia*, a method of recording images wherein the image cells are ***illuminated without directly illuminating a scene to be recorded by means of a light source wherein said light source is configured to illuminate the image cells whenever a predefined basic brightness exceeds a first threshold***, which is neither taught or an obvious variation of the prior art.

Claim 14 teaches, *inter alia*, a method of recording images wherein the image cells are ***illuminated without directly illuminating a scene to be recorded by means of a light source wherein said light source is configured to illuminate the image cells only when the brightness of image signals read-out during consecutive time intervals differ by more than a first threshold value***, which is neither taught or an obvious variation of the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Harada et al. (US Patent No. 4,758,894) disclose a solid-state image sensor system comprising light sources for directly irradiating the pixels.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WANDA M. NEGRON whose telephone number is (571) 270-1129. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 6:30 am - 4:00 pm alternate Fri off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Wanda M. Negrón/
Examiner, Art Unit 2622
May 29, 2008

/David L. Ometz/
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